

The LEADING Publishers, Printers and Book-Binders

The Hawaiian Gazette Co.,

PALMER'S LETTERS.

Local Hawaiian Problems.

Strong feeling against Mr. Shearman, — Financial Problems, — Contract between China and Japan, — Local Difficulties in Politics.

HONOLULU, MARCH 29.

The remarks of a prominent member of Plymouth Church in relation to the Hawaiian missionary republic excited the greatest interest and indignation here; interest on the side of those who believe that there has been since the first a systematic fraud perpetrated on the people of the United States, indignation from those who have the control of the local press, the courts, the jails, and at whose dictation every general despatch read by the American people has been for over two years prepared. Those in sympathy with the sentiments of Shearman declare that if during the period last named, such a critic as he had been resident at Honolulu, so that the world would have been intelligently and correctly informed on all matters pertaining to these islands, the international attitude of the great powers towards Hawaii would be very different from that which it has nominally, and as if by surferance become. Those who repeat his statements as libelous, confine their remarks chiefly to the notice of his errors in facts. Thus, there are not 100,000 Mongolians here but at most about 40,000, an entire island is not devoted to the lepers, but only a certain district of Molokai, while it is true that no Protestant minister has ever devoted his life to the sufferers, it is also a fact that chaplains of the Congregational Church have been from time to time resident at the settlement. These flaws in statistics are noted with the greatest eagerness by the advocates of the missionary party. My error in stating the proportion of voters by whom the present legislature was elected did not vitiate the reasoning that no legislative assembly had ever supplanted the provisionalist councils, yet it was magnified for the latter purpose. Four per cent of the gross population took part in the elections of last fall.

Of one thing both sides are certain: there is perfect unanimity in declaring that had Mr. Shearman been a visitor in this city, had he then written those words for publication at Brooklyn, he would have been arrested and prosecuted the moment that any copy of his article should have found its way back to Honolulu. There are two provisions of recent Hawaiian law under which such proceedings can be at any moment initiated against an alien and a correspondent. These are the article in the constitution for the punishment of any person who shall be guilty of contempt of the legislative body, even although not a member of that body, and second the statute enacted against the making and publishing of libellous or seditious matter. Much discussion has taken place amongst members of the present government as to the feasibility and advisability of applying these restrictive measures to an alien visitor. There is a most decided determination on the part of those in power to repel the least unfair criticism or misrepresentation of their official acts or public reputation, they assuming further the privilege of defining that which may or may not constitute an offense. Those who do not sympathize with such determination or intention ask how it can be reconciled with the impression the government has given that it is abundantly strong and able to maintain itself against internal dissension. If Hawaii has the best and strongest government it ever possessed, if it proves its cohesion in the recent disturbances, why, these ask, should it so openly announce its fears of the word of one insignificant individual in a journal, copies of which are not circulated at its seat of government?

"He proposes to regulate our affairs, does he?" say the indignant missionaries' sons. "Oh, no," replied one of the opposite party. "Neither Mr. Shearman nor any person of his way of thinking has the least desire to meddle in your domestic affairs; but we do not mean that you shall intrude yourself into ours; this you announce as your intention, and it is only just that the American people should be fully informed as to the character of the community which seeks to enter the Union. Has not a parent the most indisputable right to the fullest information as to the record or character of the man who seeks an alliance with his daughter?"

It must in truth be said that the annexation sentiment is growing far less unanimous in the homes of the sugar barons. "Why," said one of them to his associate recently, "why advocate annexation, when the consequent destruction of the system of contract labor will annihilate all profits from the plantations?"

"I agree perfectly with you," replied his partner; "I know that when we get the United States flag, and the bounty on sugar is abolished, we shall make no more money, but I will gladly resign all hope of future accumulation in that case, because I shall be sure to keep what I already have."

Probably the latter is one of those timid, economical men who, besides being distracted by the politics of Hawaii, the urgency and difficulty of race problems, has lent an ear to the croakers when its finances are under discussion. The honesty and capability of Minister Damon are never questioned, but in the practice of this very virtue is it true that he has said to his associates in the Cabinet: "Appropriate what you will, but remember the treasury can pay out no more money for the present."

It is then any more than a rumor that by means of the deposits of silver, the issue of certificates and treasury notes, an occasional purchase of some twenty thousand dollars Hawaiian bonds or deposits in the government postal savings bank, the opulent citizens have bled for their country's cause to universal faintness, and consequently that the object of the departure of Minister Damon for San Francisco, which heira took place on the 20th, was that he might show to the world how much better terms than those accepted by President Cleveland could be made with foreign money-lenders? The only reason publicly assigned was that of a personal consultation with Mr. Chas. R. Bishop, for some forty years the leading island banker, but since the dethronement of the queen generally residing at San Francisco, and in private business a partner of Mr. Damon's. But where is the inconsistency between the public and private reports?

The restored writ of *habeas corpus* has been first used in the case of a Japanese subject. The collector refused to allow nearly one hundred emigrants from Japan to land on the pretext that the fifty dollars required was in a bank draft in each case while the statute specifies money. They were told that they must each and all sign contracts, and this was refused. The landing of one, his arrest and the issue of the writ was made a test case, and the court decided in favor of the government. But in the meantime, the Japanese consul had applied to the minister of foreign affairs and had insisted that his countrymen should neither sign laborers' contracts nor return to their own nation. Before the case was decided by the court, the government had yielded, the minister of foreign affairs deciding that the drafts should be collected, the fifty dollars handed back to each passenger, and then the men should be permitted to land. Thus the dignity of the government was saved and a quarrel with the power which above all is feared was avoided.

The contrast between the official treatment accorded Japan and that rendered to China is strongly marked. Amongst recent enactments is one making the exclusion act aimed at the Chinese far more stringent. As at present con-

structed, it prohibits the entry of any person of that nationality without special permit of the Board of Immigration. This is rarely given save on declaration of the applicant that he proposes only to be a domestic servant or an agricultural laborer; even then the sum of one dollar and a half a month must be deducted from his wages for the purpose of paying his way back to China; should he leave the two above mentioned avenues of employment, he may be at once deported. This severity is meted out to the Chinese to satisfy the American League, which latter is thought by many to be the most formidable enemy with which the government is obliged to contend, because it is nominally of its own household, but composed of illiterate men without large estates, who magnify the least aid or support rendered to their wealthy rulers, demanding an equal division of the offices and the spoils. The prominent members of this organization begin to suspect the sugar barons of lukewarm adhesion to the cause of annexation, so just on the eve of the departure of this mail is held an annexation meeting the speakers being chosen from all classes. Those not in sympathy with the league, yet supporting the government, point to the facts that no more inopportune moment could have been chosen, for such reports of despotism, military tribunal, forcible exile, suppression of a free press, statutory restraint of opinion have gone abroad that no civilized people in the ordinary exercise of good judgment and common sense could desire clear union with powers which have so recently violated all known diplomatic precedents. And the loyal adherents of government say further that the moment is specially ill chosen, because the Washington congress, towards which since the first the provisionalists have looked not in vain for their most valued defenders, has now adjourned. But the temptation to pose for effect upon foreign nations by sending forth an account of a mass meeting is not to be registered; the democracy say that their lordly rulers have done this from the very first, and give as its latest instance the recent abolition of martial law on the very day of the departure of the last steamer.

Some disappointment has been said to exist in government circles at the small proportion of volunteers who came forward in the recent emergency. The male population of Honolulu, excluding Mongolians, is about ten thousand; the citizens' guard increased by loyal recruits turned out at the most with twelve hundred men; by this it would appear that the militia on emergency numbers say one in twelve of the male population, but as most of this twelve hundred were recent arrivals or those who needed the wages, or have little at stake, the number of actual patriots willing to risk life for Hawaii is reduced to a minimum. As a consequence, there is now undertaken a most searching inquiry into the sentiments of those persons employed by the government, but yet who rendered it no aid in its hour of terror. This is called by the official organ of the rulers "the black list," and it is highly probable that all those who believe too much or too little in regard to the Republic, and so hesitated to rush to its defense, will no longer eat at its tables.

An election is ordered to fill the seat of Mr. C. L. Carter, killed in the recent trouble, and it is probable another member of the same family will be chosen. A member of the advisory council being permanently out of the country, it is urged that his seat be filled. The first named polls will be open to those entitled to vote under the new constitution. The latter choice, if made, will be by the men who in 1893, succeeded royalism. The councils are the governing power of the nation. There are those of undoubted loyalty, who say that the legislature will never be convened. The constitution does not indicate any period earlier than February, 1896. From those who know the minds of the rulers comes to me the same intelligence that I gleaned in San Francisco, namely, that it is impossible from

every point of view for Hawaii to maintain her present status for one year to come. By distinct and different chains of reasoning, the experience of the past year has caused each thinking man to arrive at this conclusion.

JULIUS A. PALMER, JR.

J. A. MARTIN.
Agent for the Daily
"INDEPENDENT."
Hilo, Hawaii my 13.

Something New!

ORDERS can be placed with
H. E. MCINTYRE & BRO., for
Fresh

Eastern Transplanted Oysters

from John F. Colburn's Pond,
and delivery made on Tuesdays
and Saturdays of each week.

Try them, they excel the for
eign ones. my 9

L. B. KERR

DIRECT IMPORTERS OF

European & American

DRY GOODS

HAS JUST RECEIVED

A COMPLETE &
NEW STOCK

DRESS GOODS

Victoria Lawns, Dimities,
India Linens, Nainsooks,
Sateens, Cotton Pongees,

Scotch Ginghams,

Handkerchiefs, Hosiery,
Ribbons, Laces,
Flowers and Feathers,

SAILOR HATS

Flannelettes, Ceylon Shirting,
Cretonnes, Art Muslins, Curtains,
Mosquito Nets, Plain & Twilled Cotton

And the celebrated "MADAPOLAMS"
For Ladies and Children's Underclothing.

— ALSO —

The Largest & BEST
Selected Stock

in the Islands of

Suits, Serges, Trousers, etc., etc.

Sole Agent for the Popular

PEARL SEWING MACHINES,

At Popular Prices.

L. B. KERR,

Queen Street, Honolulu, my 1

P. O. Box 1480

FOUND

TELEPHONE 245
MUTUAL

The Cheapest Place
on the Islands to

Buy New & Second-Hand FURNITURE!

..... IS AT THE

CORNER OF
King & Nuuanu Sts. **IXL** Honolulu
H. I.



You Never Saw Our "AD" Before
Did You?

This seems to be a Good Location
in this Paper & Our Shoes are
Worth Advertising,

Good Price You!

The Big Fort Street
Manufacturers Shoe Co.

ORDWAY & PORTER,

Robinson Block, Hotel St., between Fort and Nuuanu,

Have Just Received, per Late Arrivals, the Largest Stock of FUL
NITURE Ever Imported to this Country, Comprising

Handsome Carved
Bedroom Sets

In Solid Oak, and of the LATEST DESIGNS.

SPECIAL ATTENTION IS CALLED TO THESE SETS:

WICKER WARE,
Beautiful Designs of Wicker Ware, consisting of
SOFAS, CHAIRS, ROCKERS, etc., you can get these in any
FINISH you desire.

CHAIRS,

Countless numbers of CHAIRS, in every style, including OFFICE
and HIGH CHAIRS.

EXTENSION TABLES,

We have had a number of calls for these Tables, with CHAIRS to
match. We have now in stock the most

BEAUTIFUL DINING ROOM FURNITURE

EVER SEEN HERE.

Sideboards and Chiffoniers
DIVANS.

Divans covered with PORTIERS are becoming quite the rage in
place of LOUNGES—we manufacture them to order, and have a
large stock of PORTIERS to select from.

BEDDING.....

Great Assortment of WOVEN WIRE MATTRESSES—Spring, Hair,
Moss, Wool and Straw Mattresses on hand and made to order.
LIVE GEESE FEATHERS and SILK FLOSS for Pillows.
CRIBS, CRADLES, etc.
WINDOW SHADES of all colors and sizes.
CORNICE POLES, in wood or brass trimmings.

REPAIRING.

Mattresses, Lounges and all Upholstered Furniture repaired at
reasonable rates.

CABINET MAKING, in all its branches, by Competent Workmen.
MATTING Laid and Interior Decorating under the Supervision of
Mr. GEORGE ORDWAY.

Our Goods are First Class, and our prices are the lowest. Come
and be convinced—a trial is solicited.
Bell 525. TELEPHONES: Mutual 645.

Notice

All accounts due to the Holomua Publishing Company must be paid at once to the undersigned manager at his office in the INDEPENDENT office, on Kekuanaoa Street, Honolulu

EDMUND NORMIE,
Honolulu, May 3, 1895. tf.

WING WO TAI & CO

No 25 Nuuanu Street
[Honolulu, H. I.]

Commission Merchant, Importers and
Dealers in General Merchandise, fine Mani-
la Cigars, Chinese and Japanese Crockery-
ware, Mattings. Values of all kinds, Cam-
poodwood Trunks, Rattan Chairs. A fine
assortment of Dress Silks, choicest Brands
of Chinese and Japanese Teas of Latest Im-
portations.

Inspection of New Goods respect-
fully solicited
Bell Tel. 266. P. O. Box 158

Rooms and Board.

Rooms and Board for a few
persons can be had at Ilaniwai,
on the Waikiki beach.

W. S. BARTLETT,
Proprietor.
my 13.

FOR SALE.

ONE GORDON COFFER FULPER,
Hand Power. A bargain. Apply for
plans at this Office.